



Bible study for the week starting December 21, 2025

SHARE

What's the most memorable Christmas gift you ever received? What gift have you received that "means a little bit more, that didn't come from a store" (Grinch-style)? (We got our kids a puppy 5 years ago; that was a good one.)

READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read [Matthew 1:18-25](#). What was the heavenly purpose God had in store for Mary and Joseph, and what was it about the message and method of communication that led to their obedience?
2. Had Mary and Joseph not been the parents of Jesus, they would have been forgotten by history. If all you do is raise your children to know and love Jesus, there's a chance that might be the biggest impact you make in this life. What other things can you think of that might make an impact like this?
3. One of the points of the message was that God has bigger plans from you than you would choose for yourself. What are some things in your life when you look backward where you can see God at work doing big things?
4. Read [Isaiah 7:10-14](#). These words were written about 734 B.C. Matthew is crystal clear that the birth of Jesus is a fulfillment of this prophecy. Go through the list of other specific details of the birth of Jesus that were the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy (example: Birthplace – Micah 5, descendant of David, etc.).
5. [Romans 1:1-7](#). This long list of attributes includes "descended from David," but includes several other important details about Jesus. Spend some time unpacking the details of this amazing Savior, Jesus.

PRAY

Pray for hope, peace, joy and love at Christmas, and for God to use you to show His presence to those around you.



HOPE LIVES HERE: THE GIRL NEXT DOOR

Matthew 1:18-25 (Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7)

December 21, 2025 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

Mary and Joseph were brought together by the Gospel for a [HEAVENLY](#) purpose.

Sometimes when God [DERAILS](#) your life, it is because He has [BIGGER](#) plans for you than you would choose for yourself.

The angel normally says “do not fear” so you’re not terrified in his presence, but here the [COURAGE](#) is for Joseph to do the [HARD](#) thing.

This is the first place in the Bible (out of 983) we hear the [NAME](#) of [JESUS](#).

Jesus is the [FULFILLMENT](#) of the words in Isaiah 7 that were written in about 734 B.C. (and others made between 400-4,000 years before His birth).

God thinks of us and uses us for His [PLANS](#) and [PURPOSES](#) as He keeps His [PROMISES](#).

[OBEDIENCE](#) is a faith-filled response.

Whether they fully [UNDERSTOOD](#) the plan or not, they understood the [ASSIGNMENT](#).

There’s a decent chance the [HARDEST](#) things in your life right now are the most important [REASONS](#) God has you on this earth.

Next week’s readings are Luke 2:22-38; Psalm 84:1-12; Ephesians 3:8-12.